R. Hutson 4/18/05

COENZYME A-UTILIZING ENZYMES

This application is a national stage entry of PCT/US99/25820, filed on 11/03/1999, which claims priority from 60/240921 filed 11/03/1998.

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of coenzyme A-utilizing enzymes and to the use of these sequences in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of neoplastic, immunological, neurological, vesicle trafficking, and muscle disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A large number of cellular biosynthetic intermediary metabolism processes involve intermolecular transfer of carbon atom-containing substrates (carbon substrates). Examples of such reactions include the tricarboxylic acid cycle, synthesis of fatty acids and long-chain phospholipids, synthesis of alcohols and aldehydes, synthesis of intermediary metabolites, and reactions involved in the amino acid degradation pathways. Some of these reactions require input of energy, usually in the form of conversion of ATP to either ADP or AMP and pyrophosphate.

In many cases, a carbon substrate is derived from a small molecule containing at least two carbon atoms. The carbon substrate is often covalently bound to a larger molecule which acts as a carbon substrate carrier molecule within the cell. In the biosynthetic mechanisms described above, the carrier molecule is coenzyme A. Coenzyme A (CoA) is structurally related to derivatives of the nucleotide ADP and consists of 4'-phosphopantetheine linked via a phosphodiester bond to the alpha phosphate group of adenosine 3',5'-bisphosphate. The terminal thiol group of 4'-phosphopantetheine acts as the site for carbon substrate bond formation. The predominant carbon substrates which utilize CoA as a carrier molecule during biosynthesis and intermediary metabolism in the cell are acetyl, succinyl, and propionyl moieties, all of which are examples of acyl groups. Other carbon substrates include enoyl lipid, which acts as a fatty acid oxidation intermediate, and carnitine, which acts as an acetyl-CoA flux regulator/mitochondrial acyl group transfer protein. Acyl-CoA and acetyl-CoA are synthesized in the cell by acyl-CoA synthetase and acetyl-CoA synthetase, respectively.

Activation of fatty acids is mediated by at least three forms of acyl-CoA synthetase activity: i) acetyl-CoA synthetase, which activates acetate and several other low molecular weight carboxylic acids and is found in muscle mitochondria and the cytosol of other tissues; ii) medium-chain acyl-CoA synthetase, which activates fatty acids containing between four and eleven carbon atoms (predominantly from dietary sources), and is present only in liver mitochondria; and iii) acyl CoA synthetase, which is specific for long chain fatty acids with between six and twenty carbon atoms, and is found in microsomes and the mitochondria. Proteins associated with acyl-CoA synthetase activity have been identified from many sources including bacteria, yeast, plants, mouse, and man. The activity of acyl-CoA synthetase may be modulated by phosphorylation of the enzyme by cAMP-